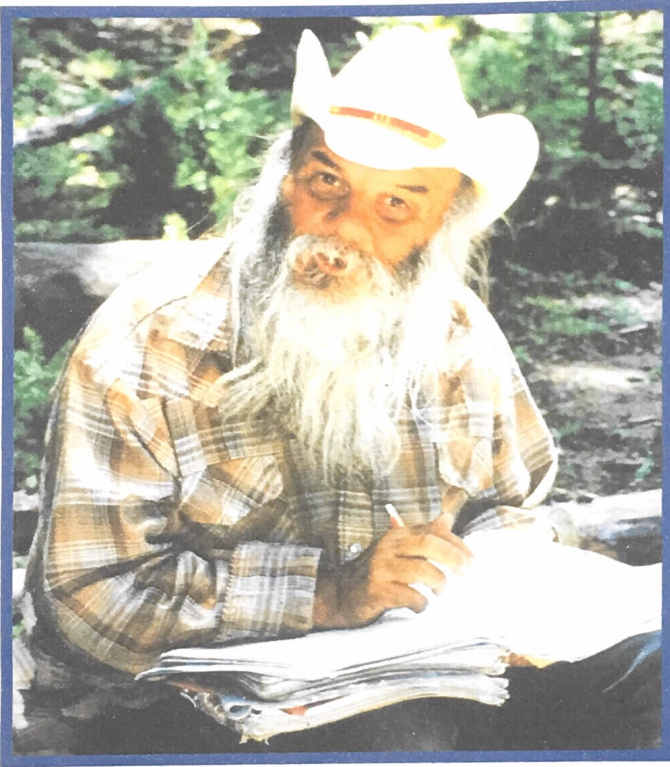


Rainbow Family Life Stories



*by Jodey Bateman.
Interviews with Rainbow
Family of Living Light
folks conducted between
1977 and 2008.
Scanned in 2018.
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contacted on Facebook.*

03. Introduction to - "The Gathering Itself"

2 pages

[03.]

The Gathering Itself

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Before the individual life stories, I would like to include three accounts of how Rainbow people work together in their main group activity—the gathering. Then the life stories will place the gathering in a larger context.

The first selection is excerpts from Basic Rainbow, a recent booklet by Garrick, who helped set up the first gathering in Colorado and has done major work on almost all the others. These excerpts describe the basic principles the gatherings run on and some basic gathering institutions—also some of the social and political effects of the gathering. Garrick is a close observer of the scene. Only in a few places do I think his description might be over-idealized.

If any of what Garrick says is over-idealized, it is balanced by the next account of the 1977 New Mexico Gathering by Monte Tidwell. Monte was an anthropology student at Oklahoma University at the time. Monte had never been to the gathering before and had no idea what to expect. His diary, which he let me have for this book, is full of raw first impressions of how a specific gathering actually worked. The New Mexico Gathering was relatively small and Garrick's booklet reflects much larger and more developed later gatherings.

The third selection is an official US Government view from the Forest Service—of the 1978 Oregon Gathering. Garrick says some of the Forest Service criticisms of the gathering are "Mickey Mouse," BUT it will be obvious from the excerpts of the Forest Service report—the Forest Service personnel on the scene have a basically positive opinion of the gathering. I have been told that President Carter's sister, Ruth Carter Stapleton, got to read the Forest Service report on the

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1976 Montana Gathering. She got such a favorable impression that she asked her brother to do what he could to help Rainbow. This may be why Rainbow's negotiations with the government for some Bureau of Land Management land for a Peace Village went favorably until election time drew near and the Carter Administration

took a turn to the right. Even under the unfriendly Reagan Administration, the Forest Service has respected the Rainbow Family's ability to take care of the land.